

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NP

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 049590

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 5 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

WP'S GETLER (ABRIDGED IN PHINQ AND GLOBE) QUOTES INFORMED
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SOURCES THAT COPTER CARRIER USS OKINAWA AND 1500 MARINES
ORDERED INTO GULF OF THAILAND IN CASE US EVACUATION FROM
PP BECOMES NECESSARY. NOTES THESE ACTIONS ONLY PART OF
CONTINGENCY PLAN THAT COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT AND, WHILE

SITUATION GRIM, THERE HAS BEEN NO CALL FOR EVACUATION NOR IS IT CERTAIN ONE WILL BE NECESSARY. SOURCES SAY USE OF MARINES WOULD BE LAST RESORT. REPORTS MARINES ON OKINAWA SAID TO HAVE BEEN ON ALERT FOR ABOUT WEEK. SAYS US DEFENSE ANALYSTS FEAR REBELS MAY SOON GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO POCHENTONG TO HIT RUNWAYS WITH ACCURATE HOWITZERS OR MORTARS AND CUT OFF PP COMPLETELY.

PRES' REQUEST FOR AID TO GKR TEMPORARILY SHELVED BY HASUBC UNTIL CONGRESS APPROVES SEPARATE AUTHORIZATION (CSM). MOVE DAMPENS ADMIN HOPE OF QUICK VOTE ON GKR EXTRA MIL AID. SUBC MEMBERS SAID DECIDED DEFER ACTION UNTIL HOUSE APPROVES RELATED AUTHORIZATION BILL SETTING CONDITIONS AND CEILINGS. ADMIN HAD HOPED BYPASS AUTHORIZING

LEGISLATION, BUT SUPPORTERS FEARED WOULD LOSE VOTES BY TRYING SHORT-CIRCUIT CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS. EARLIER, IN ATTEMPT TO SAVE BILL, EA'S HABIB RUSHED TO CLOSED-DOOR SESSION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND TESTIFY MAJORITY OF CODEL THAT VISITED CAMBODIA FAVORS PROVIDING GKR EXTRA 110.3 MILLION DOLS FOR AMMO, FUEL AND SPARE PARTS TO DEFEND PP UNTIL RAINS START. PROPOSAL PUSHED BY REP MCCLOSKEY WHO RETURNED FROM TRIP CONVINCED BEST WAY TO REDUCE KILLING IS TO GIVE GKR ENOUGH AMMO TO HOLD OUT UNTIL RAINY SEASON (REUTER, GLOBE).

CAMBODIA MONEY NOW MUST BE RECOMMENDED BY HFAC AND SFRC, AND THEN AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE AND SENATE BEFORE APPROPRIATED CHAPPELL SAYS IF AUTHORIZATION BECOMES BOGGED-DOWN, APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE COULD TRY AGAIN SHORT-CIRCUIT PROCEDURE. SESSION CLOSED BECAUSE INFO COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO US SECURITY, ACCORDING FLYNT (AP, SUN; PHINQ). WP'S LYONS BELIEVES PASSMAN BACKED OFF FROM SHORT-CIRCUIT PROCEDURE FOR FEAR HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH VOTES, SO DEFERRED ITEM "WITHOUT PREJUDICE." SEES CONSIDERABLE DELAY AT BEST FOR GKR FUNDS, THOUGH PASSMAN HELD OUT POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT TRY MOVE MONEY WITHOUT AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION UNCLASSIFIED

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IF COMMITTEES DON'T MOVE. REP MAHON DOESN'T THINK REQUEST DEAD, SAYS RECENT CODEL VISIT WAS PLUS FACTOR.

NYT'S FINNEY SAYS ADMIN REQUEST FOR GKR AID HAS RECEIVED SERIOUS SETBACK, WITH DELAY COMPLICATING SLIM CHANCE CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE. BELIEVES INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY CONGRESS WILL ACT WITHIN APR 1 DEADLINE SET BY ADMIN FOR "RESCUING" GKR. REVIEWS POSITION OF CODEL MEMBERS, WHO MET WITH HASUBC. NOTES SOME MEMBERS ASSESS SUBC'S DECISION AS REFLECTING UNCERTAINTY AMONG CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS THAT THEY HAVE VOTES TO GET APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS BILL. NOTES SUBC APPEARED DIVIDED 5-5, WITH 3 UNDECIDED. QUOTES PASSMAN THAT "REASONABLE

CHANCE THAT WE MIGHT STUMBLE ALONG THE WAY," AND AID HAS BETTER CHANCE IF FIRST AUTHORIZED.

DOS' ANDERSON SAID TUESDAY THAT HAK ACTIVE IN EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PEACE TALKS IN CAMBODIA, BUT MOST PROMISING BID ABORTED BY US BOMBING HALT IN AUG, '73 (WSJ). SPOKESMAN DENIED REPORTS SECSTATE NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN SEA (LYONS, WP). ANDERSON PROMISED PRODUCE RECORD OF US EFFORTS FOR CAMBODIAN PEACE SETTLEMENT. SAID IF CONGRESS APPROVED EXTRA MIL AID FOR GKR, WOULD IMPROVE CHANCES FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT (AP, SUN).

WP'S MCCOMBS IN PP DESCRIBES ROCKETING THAT TERRORIZES CITY, QUOTES INFORMED MIL SOURCES THAT FANK INFANTRY SIMPLY HAD NOT COUNTERATTACKED STRONGLY ENOUGH (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE 3/5).

INSURGENTS FIRE OVER 30 ROCKETS INTO PP AIRPORT AS US CARGO JETS CONTINUE TO COME IN WITH RICE, AMMO AND FUEL; AT LEAST 9 ROCKETS HIT CITY (WSJ; PHINQ). REBELS ALSO SCATTERED LEAFLETS IN CITY CALLING FOR UPRISING AGAINST LON NOL. VOLAGS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH USG DECISION ALLOCATING 20,000 TONS OF RICE FOR REFUGEES AND NEEDY IN COMING WEEKS (AP, SUN).

OVER 100 STUDENTS RANSACKED CHINESE SHOPS IN BATTAMBANG SECOND TIME IN 2 WKS, ACCORDING TRAVELERS REACHING PP UNCLASSIFIED

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(CSM; PHINQ; AP, SUN). BATTAMBANG OFFICIALS ORDERED CURFEW. LATEST RIOT APPARENTLY TOUCHED OFF BY CHARGES CHINESE HOARD RICE AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INFLATION (WP FROM PP).

INSURGENTS OVERRUN SMALL BASE 7 MILES FROM PP, LEAVING ONLY 1 POSITION, PREY PUOCH, THAT PREVENTS REBELS GETTING WITHIN ARTILLERY RANGE OF POCHENTONG (WP FROM PP). PP UNDER DIRECT ATTACK FROM ALL 4 DIRECTIONS, WITH BATTLE 10 MILES TO S, ATTACKS ON 2 GKR POSITIONS 10 MILES N, POCHENTONG BEING ROCKETED FROM W, AND INSURGENT PRESSURE FROM ACROSS MEKONG TO E (REUTER, GLOBE). REBELS CLOSE IN ON PP, BEAT BACK FANK ATTEMPT TO REACH PREY PUOCH, THAT HAS BEEN SCENE OF BLOODY FIGHTING FOR PAST TWO DAYS. MIL SOURCES SAY US INCREASING AIRLIFT. INTELL OFFICERS SAY IF PREY PUOCH FALLS, REBELS COULD CLOSE AIRPORT AND CAUSE PP FALL (UPI, CHITRIB).

GLOBE'S STORIN IN PP WRITES OF DEADLY SIEGE BEING ENDURED, OBSERVES CITY'S LIFE GOES ON. QUOTES MIL SOURCES THAT CAPITAL LEADING MONTH-TO-MONTH EXISTENCE, BUT NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF BEING OVERRUN. AIRLIFT RELIEVED CRITICAL

SHORTAGES AND SPIRIT OF PEOPLE ALSO APPEARS TO HOLD.

US MAN AND WOMAN RELEASED AFTER BEING DETAINED BY PL
IN LUANG PRABANG ON SUSPICION OF SPYING, ACCORDING
US SOURCES. PAIR EVIDENTLY ENTERED PL CAMP BY MISTAKE
(REUTER VIENTIANE).

2. JAPAN

JOC (TOKYO) NOTES HOUSE REPS PASSED JFY 75 BUDGET
TUESDAY; TAKES EFFECT APRIL 2, EVEN IF UPPER HOUSE

FAILS ACT ON IT BY THEN. SAYS 24.5 PERCENT INCREASE
OVER LAST YEAR COULD WEAKEN ANTI-INFLATION POLICY
WITHOUT MODERATING GROWING RECESSION.

JOC ALSO NOTES MITSUBISHI PETROCHEMICAL CONTRACT
TO EXPORT 120,000 TON CAPACITY ETHYLENE PLANT AND
TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA NATL TECHNICAL IMPORT CORP IN
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PEKING; NINE BILLION YEN COST TO BE PAID RME BASIS,
FIVE YEARS, 6 PERCENT INTEREST.

WSJ (TOKYO) SAYS NIPPON MINING RAISES PRICE ELECTROLYTIC
COPPER FROM 62 TO 64 CENTS/LB, FOLLOWING RISE ON LONDON
METAL EXCHANGE; BELIEVED FIRST INCREASE BY MAJOR WORLD
PRODUCER IN YEAR.

CSM FINANCIAL EDITOR FRANCIS IN TOKYO FINDS ACTION
INCREASING ON TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE AS INFLATION ABATES,
AND INVESTORS SEEM ANTICIPATE ECONOMIC RESURGENCE AFTER
GOJ EASES TIGHT MONEY LATER IN YEAR. SEES FOREIGN
BUYERS (MOSTLY WEUR) SWITCHING FUNDS FROM AILING
DOLLAR TO YEN TO PROFIT FROM HIGHER BOND YIELDS. BUT
ACCORDING US BROKER AMERICANS NOT YET TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF SITUATION FOLLOWING 1974 ABOLITION OF IET.

3. KOREA

PLAINCLOTHES POLICE OVERPOWERED KOREAN WEDNESDAY WHO
HELD TICKET AGENT HOSTAGE FOUR HOURS AT KNIFEPOINT
IN JAL OFFICE (REUTER, WP). POLICE SAY YOUNG MAN
THREATENED KILL HOSTAGE UNLESS GIVEN PISTOL, 100 ROUNDS
AMMO, 10 HAND GRENADES. HOSTAGE HOSPITALIZED IN SERIOUS
CONDITION FROM CUTS ON FACE, HEAD (AP, PHINQ).

UPI SEOUL (MAR 3) NOTES UNC SPOKESMAN USN RADM MORGAN
ACCUSED NK IN MAC MEETING MONDAY OF BRINGING TWO
KOREAS TO "BRINK OF CONFRONTATION" DURING, AFTER SHIP
COLLISION IN YELLOW SEA LAST WEEK.

4. THAILAND

REUTER (BANGKOK) CITES OPEN LETTER TO PRES FORD BY SIX THAI UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS IN MARCH 5 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "VOICE OF NATION" URGING DANIEL ELLSBERG BE NEXT AMB TO THAILAND EVEN IF "NOT IDEAL NOMINEE" FROM PRES' POINT OF VIEW, "OBJECTIONABLE" TO HAK, AND PROBABLY NOT ACCEPTABLE" TO SENATE. BUT SAY ELLSBERG SERVED IN INDOCHINA WAR, IS NOT IVORY-TOWER INTELLECTUAL, AND MADE "MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION" TO US FOREIGN POLICY BY PUBLICIZING PENTAGON PAPERS.

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

5. INDOCHINA

MCCARTNEY (GLOBE 3/2) NOTES REVIVAL OF "DOMINO THEORY" BY SECDEF AND SECSTATE THAT REMAINS "PHILOSOPHIC UNDERPINNING" OF ADMIN CAMPAIGN TO GET EXTRA MIL AID FOR GVN AND GKR. CALLS GKR "DOMINO ABOUT TO FALL."

CDN'S LISAGOR IN LAT (3/2) SEES OLD ARGUMENTS BEING LIFTED FROM FILES, WITH TALK OF FALLING DOMINOS, BLOOD-BATHS, AND VALUE OF US COMMITMENT. SAYS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE CRUEL TO REMIND HAK HE ONCE SPOKE OF "DECENT INTERVAL" FOLLOWING WHICH SVN WOULD EITHER ACCOMMODATE ITSELF OR SUCCUMB TO NVN, WITH INTERVAL ABSOLVING US OF SENSE OF GUILT OR ABANDONMENT. WONDERS WHY PRES LET SELF BECOME MIRED IN REVIVED RECITAL OF CANT AND HYPOCRISY OF PREDECESSORS, EXCEPT ON GROUNDS OF "LAPSE OF JUDGMENT." BELIEVES PRES PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN MOST OF MIL AID REQUESTS IF HE HAD CHOSEN NOT TO DRAMATIZE SUPPLEMENTAL BY RAKING UP OLD AND BITTER EMOTIONS, DIVISIONS, AND MEMORIES.

TAMARKIN (CDN 2/26) IN SAIGON REPORTS NVA WAGING "NIBBLING" WAR AGAINST SVN, WITH OBJECTIVES TO ISOLATE SAIGON, CUT OFF DELTA, INTERDICT LOCS, MAKE POPULATION GAINS, AND INCREASE TERRORISM IN MAJOR CITIES. DISCUSSES CAPTURED COSVN DOCUMENT AND COMMUNIST GAINS OF PAST TWO MONTHS. NOTES SOME ANALYSTS SEE DECLINE IN ARVN MORALE, BUT QUOTES SVN COL THAT ONE DOESN'T THINK OF MORALE WHEN FIGHTING FOR LIFE.

LAT'S MCARTHUR (3/2) IN SAIGON SEES SITUATION IN SVN AS POSSIBLY FORCING MORE DILEMMAS ON US AS RESULT OF NVN POLITBURO DIVISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO MOUNT MAJOR MIL OFFENSIVE. WHILE DRV EMPHASIZED REBUILDING AT HOME, IT IMPROVED MIL STOCKPILES IN SVN IN BOTH

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QUANTITY AND QUALITY, WHICH INCREASED ITS OPTIONS. NOTES THAT WITH NIXON RESIGNATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AID CUTS, HANOI ANNOUNCED WOULD NEVER NEGOTIATE WITH THIEU. CONCURRENTLY, NVN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE STALLED, GVN WAS SURVIVING, ECON STRAIN IN SVN NOT HURTING ENOUGH, AND VC SEEMED UNABLE REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE SHATTERED IN 1968. ADDITIONALLY, NVN DECIDED "THIRD FORCE" OFFERED LITTLE HOPE AND HANOI RADIO DENOUNCED REV THANH'S MOVEMENT AS "WORTHLESS." MCARTHUR SAYS HARD-LINERS WON MAJOR CHANGE IN MIL POLICY FOR 1975. QUOTES HANOI-WATCHERS' BELIEF APPROVAL WON FOR MAJOR BUT "LIMITED" OFFENSIVE, PROBABLY IN FORM OF STRONG REGIONAL EFFORTS, CAREFULLY TUNED TO SITUATION IN US AND SVN'S WEAKNESSES. THINKS IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT, HANOI COULD FALL BACK ON REOPENING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. NOTES SECRET CONTACTS IN PAST FEW MONTHS, INCLUDING SOME INVOLVING MALIK. OPINES SUCH NEGOTIATIONS COULD CENTER ON NEW C-F THAT WOULD RECOGNIZE COMMUNIST GAINS SINCE 1972 AND ENHANCE STATUS OF PRG.

CSM SAYS WHILE CODEL TRIP WAS NECESSARILY SUPERFICIAL ONE, AND UNFAIR TO EXPECT LAWMAKERS COULD RETURN WITH HARD-AND-FAST POLITICAL/MIL ASSESSMENTS THAT HAVE ELUDED EVEN MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE EXPERTS, FACT THAT EVEN AFTER SUCH SHORT TIME ON SCENE SOME OF THEM HAVE ALTERED PERCEPTIONS OF US COMMITMENT THERE IS SIGNIFICANT. IS STRUCK BY "UNDOGMATIC" COMMENTS BY MOST CODEL MEMBERS, THAT REFLECT INDOCHINA AMBIGUOUS SITUATION; PERHAPS NOW THERE WILL BE NEW APPRECIATION OF DIFFICULT DECISIONS CONFRONTING ADMIN ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION.

CSM BELIEVES US, BECAUSE OF VERY CONDITIONS IT HELPED CREATE IN INDOCHINA, NOW BEARS RESPONSIBILITY THERE -- WE CANNOT ABRUPTLY ABANDON FORMER ALLIES WHO DEMONSTRATE WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL. LOOKS AS IF SOME COMPROMISE ON AID TO CAMBODIA AT LEAST WILL BE REACHED, AND AS CONGRESS PONDERES AID QUESTION, HOPES ADMIN GIVING EQUAL ATTENTION TO FRESH DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY TOWARD REGION (IN USIA, WIRELESS FILE).

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SUN'S THIMMESCH ARGUES THERE IS GOOD CASE FOR CONTINUED US AID TO CAMBODIA. NOTES N VIETS WERE IN CAMBODIA BEFORE US INCURSION, AND STAYED LONG AFTER WE LEFT. IF COUNTRY FALLS AND REBELS SLAUGHTER CIVILIANS, AGONIZING HERE WILL BE BRIEF BECAUSE OF CONGRESS'

"SO-WHAT" ATTITUDE." BUT BOTTOM LINE WILL ACTUALLY BE THAT US ROLE OF FREE-WORLD LEADER IS FURTHER DIMINISHED.

STAR SAYS HAK SHOULD TAKE TIME OUT FROM ME AND GET INVOLVED MORE DEEPLY IN VN AND CAMB. NEGOTIATIONS. RESULTS OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT HIGHLY WORTHWHILE. PRES FORD SHOULD CONSIDER SIMILAR VISIT AND TAKE HIS CASE STRONGLY TO US PEOPLE.

BOSTON GLOBE REPRINTS SAME LETTER FROM SIHANOUK WHICH APPEARS IN NYT 3/5, CALLING ON CAMBODIA

TO CARE FOR ITSELF; ATTACKS US POLICY, ACCUSES LON NOL REGIME OF CORRUPTION, POINTS TO DOMESTIC US PROBLEMS WHICH DEMAND SOLUTION BUT SAYS HE SEEKS RECONCILIATION WITH US. ADDED AID WILL NOT RESULT IN NEGOTIATION BUT WILL WIDEN GULF BETWEEN "OUR PEOPLES" AND STIFFEN RESISTENCE.

LATIMES (3/3) CARRIES ARTICLE BY LIANE NORMAN LECTURER AT PITTSBURG UNIV. WHO DISCUSSES VISIT TO CAMPUS OF NGO CONG DUC A VN EXILE, CATHOLIC, ANTI-THIEU, THIRD FORCE, WHO BELIEVES TIME COME TO COOPERATE WITH PRG. NO US AID WILL MEAN THIEU RUNS AWAY BUT THIRD FORCE STAYS. STUDENTS DISPUTE DUC WHO VIEWS HIMSELF AS GULLIVER IN LAND OF GIANTS.

IN LETTER TO NYT, DOS'S EAGLEBURGER TAKES ISSUE WITH RECENT NYT ARTICLE BY SAFIRE AND TWO BY TONY LEWIS CRITICAL OF HAK. CONCEDES NOT BEING DISINTERESTED BYSTANDER BUT REGISTERS STRONG OBJECTION TO THESE ARTICLES WHICH "GO WELL BEYOND" BOUNDS OF GOOD JOURNALISM, GOOD TASTE, "AND RAISE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS MOTIVES AND HIS DEDICATION TO UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS COUNTRY."

CLAIMS LEWIS JAN 20 PIECE APPEARED TO ATTRIBUTE CONTINUED INDOCHINA FIGHTING TO HAK'S "EGOCENTRIC COMPULSION" TO PROTECT OWN REPUTATION RE US INDOCHINA POLICY. INSISTS ARTICLES FACTUALLY INACCURATE. HAK PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN ENDING US' VN INVOLVEMENT AND SECURING POW'S RETURN. WHILE LEGITIMATE TO DEBATE WHETHER WE COULD HAVE ENDED INVOLVEMENT MORE QUICKLY, NOT NECESSARY TO SAY MAN WHO LOST 13 MEMBERS OF FAMILY IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS HAS NO FEELING FOR HUMAN LIFE. EAGLEBURGER EMPHASIZES HE ALONE INITIATED, DRAFTED AND SENT LETTER TO NYT; NOT SEEN BY HAK, NOR IS HE AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE.

GELB (NYT) PRESENTS BACKGROUND OF US MIL AID TO INDOCHINA PROBLEM, ADMIN VIEW AND THAT OF OPPOSITION. AS TO OUTLOOK, SAYS UNCLEAR HOW MUCH WEIGHT RETURNED CODEL WILL HAVE ON SUPPLEMENTAL AID, BUT UNLIKELY ANYTHING NEAR TOTAL WILL BE GRANTED. SEES ADMIN AND CONGRESS HEADED TOWARD SOME COMPROMISE PHASING OUT SVN AID IN THREE YEARS. AMOUNT OF AID AND FOR HOW LONG REMAIN OPEN QUESTIONS.

6. CHINA

WSJ'S HARTLEY, IN TAIPEI, OBSERVES ROC SPENT LAST YEAR FIGHTING INFLATION, "AND, PRETTY MUCH ALONE IN THE WORLD, THEY WON." THROUGH MOST OF 1974, EVEN WHEN HIGH OIL PRICES STRUCK, TAIPEI PRICES MOSTLY CONTINUED FALLING. NOW "PRAGMATISTS" WHO RUN NATION'S ECONOMY ARE TACKLING RECESSION, AND MANY BUSINESSMEN AND ECONOMISTS THERE THINK CHINESE ON RIGHT TRACK. "NIGGLING" GOVT PROGRAMS -- SUCH AS SUSPENDING COMPANY PAYMENTS TO GOVT VOCATIONAL-TRAINING FUND AND ELIMINATING HARBOR TAXES -- HAVE INFUSED NEEDED BITS OF CASH INTO COMPANIES. IN

INFLATION/RECESSION CONUNDRUM, ROC'S APPROACH IS NOT TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT IT CANNOT INFLUENCE, TO ASSUME FOR NOW STABILITY MORE IMPORTANT THAN GROWTH. BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY HARDLY TAKING WORLD'S ECON PROBLEMS UNSCATHED. TOTAL GROWTH LAST YEAR WAS ESSENTIALLY FLAT, AND NATION RECORDED FIRST TRADE DEFICIT IN YEARS. GNP INCREASED VERY SLIGHTLY, AND THERE IS SOME UNEMPLOYMENT.

7. THAILAND

CSM'S SCHMIDT IN WASHINGTON OBSERVES SENI DECISION TO SEEK US WITHDRAWAL STEMS FROM NEED TO FISH FOR SOCIALIST SUPPORT, BUT HIS GOVT NOT CERTAIN TO REMAIN IN POWER; HINTS RIGHTIST PARTIES MIGHT NOT DEMAND WITHDRAWAL, SHOULD SENI FALL AND THEY SUCCEED (USIA WIRELESS FILE 3/5). INGERSOLL

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